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MAX. FROST Editor
PAUL A. F. WALTER Associate Editor
CHARLES M. STAUFFER .. Manager

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RUSSIAN AND JAPANESE LAND FORCES.

There may be no war between Russia and Japan on the Korean question at this time; sooner or later, however, in the very nature of things it must come, and Korea is destined to become either a part of the dominion of the White Czar or a province of the Mikado of Japan. It is said that Russia is unable at this time to float a war loan of 125,000,000 rubles and if that is the case, actual fighting will be put off until the Russian treasury is stronger and until the number of Russian soldiers in Manchuria is greater than at present. At this time while the comparative "sea power" of Russia and Japan in Oriental waters is the most obvious and urgent of the military questions raised by the rumors of war, the comparative strength of the land forces is not less important, says the New York Times. To seize and hold Korea, to the exclusion of the other power, must be the object of each if a conflict comes. Apparently such a seizure could not be made, nor even the landing of a considerable force, neither party being China, without a great sea fight which shall sink the historical "battle of the Yalu" into insignificance. The Russian aim must be to bring off this conflict at a point where Russia may derive the greatest assistance from the railway and the Japanese to deprive her of that advantage. The landing of a strong body once effected, the war must be continued on land if it is not to go by default.

On paper the regular Japanese army numbers something less than 150,000, on the peace establishment the Russian army nearly ten times as many. But the Japanese figures are "net." That is to say, the whole strength of the army is available for a war with Russia on the Asiatic coast of the Pacific. How much of the Russian army is so available? On the first of June, 1900, the Russian troops in north Asia were estimated at 2,500 officers, 100,000 men, 15,000 horses, and 170 field guns, of which 60,000 men and 120 guns were in the department of the Amur. Before the end of that year they had been reinforced by 20,000 men. By the end of 1901, thanks to reinforcements from European Russia and from north and central Asia, M. Witte estimated the troops ready for service in eastern Asia at 220,000 men. For the intervening two years, although the Russian war office has been able to keep its secrets better than would be possible in a more modern country, the reports of all travelers and observers on the spot concur that a steady stream of troops has been making its way eastward. The estimate of 350,000 men which has been published is doubtless extravagant. But it does seem quite possible that Russia may have a quarter of a million of men in condition to be brought to bear upon the Japanese forces within a few weeks after the commencement of hostilities. Evidently such a number would involve tremendous problems of transport and subsistence, problems which the Russian staff can scarcely have the means to solve. But it seems to be quite clear that Russia could assemble more men in Manchuria than Japan could collect there to meet her. With Korea the case would be different. The Japanese facilities for occupying the peninsula are so superior to the Russian that one would expect the Japanese to show a numerical advantage at the point of contact.

Mayor McClellan of New York City, says he will give Gotham a decent and honest administration during his term of office. New brooms sweep clean.

In some respects the kingdom of Spain is much better off than are many other governments. It has no foreign policy at present and it wants none.

The Republic of Mexico is progressing right along. It will be put upon a gold standard soon and has also just agreed to a treaty of extradition with this country under the provisions of which bidders will no longer find refuge there.

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SOUTHERN LEGISLATURES ON THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY.

Southern sentiment regarding the Panama Canal treaty is well illustrated by the fact that legislatures south of Mason and Dixon's line are beginning to instruct the United States Senators from their states to cast their votes for the ratification of the treaty. Mississippi has already done so and the Denver Republican says that the fact that the Mississippi legislature has instructed the Senators from that state to vote for the Panama Canal treaty is an indication of the state of public sentiment in the south on this question. It suggests that sufficient Democratic votes will be secured to insure ratification.

The south wants the Panama Canal built, and it would seem that the people of that section are willing to accept the results of the revolution in Panama as accomplished facts which cannot be ignored or set aside. The revolution has accomplished its work. Whether justly or unjustly achieved, Panama has secured its independence, and it is today a sovereign state capable of negotiating and entering into treaties. This great fact stands out clearly above all the objections that may be made, and it cannot be changed or done away with by any action the Senate may take concerning the treaty.

In itself the treaty is all that the United States can ask, and it is evident that this is fully recognized by the legislature of Mississippi. The face of the nation is turned toward the future and the achievement of the great work contemplated by this treaty, and it cannot now turn back. It cannot undo the work of the Panama revolution. The Republic of Panama has acquired international rights which the United States is as much bound to recognize as it is to recognize the rights of Colombia or any other sovereign state. The Senators from Mississippi are, in substance, instructed to recognize this by accepting the treaty which the new republic has offered.

It is probable that all the Republican members of the Senate will vote in favor of ratification. In that event it will require only five Democratic votes to give the requisite two-thirds majority. If two are secured from Mississippi in consequence of the instructions sent by the legislature of that state it is probable that with little difficulty the remaining three votes needed will be obtained.

There is no doubt that in the past Russia has evinced friendship for this country, but how about the future?

The crown prince of Germany wants to marry an American singer. The fellow has evidently more sense than people gave him credit for.

Spain is becoming quite friendly to Uncle Sam. Spanish newspapers have advised the Colombians that they cannot give Uncle Sam a licking.

Missouri lawyers are very sore at their Democratic Supreme Court. Since the latter has gone into the business of freeing bidders, law business in that state has fallen off a good deal.

The St. Louis Globe Democrat advises Missourians to get rid of the present reputation of their state. That will be a hard job. No other state wants it and the chances are that poor old Missouri will have to keep it.

It can safely be asserted that the Armenian uprisings in Russian Caucasus and the depredations of the Huaneese pirates in Manchuria are not worrying the Japanese government any.

The investigations into the Iroquois theater horror are proving conclusively that the house was a veritable death trap and that this was known to the owners and managers. Any and everything to make money seems to be the "go" in the Windy City.

Representative Sereno Payne of New York, is serene in the belief that President Roosevelt will have no difficulty in carrying New York in this year's election. The Republicans all over the country truly hope that Mr. Payne's belief is well founded.

Considering the number of Russian war ships and troops in the Yellow Sea and in Manchuria, Russia evidently is very much opposed to the "open door" in that section or perhaps all these ships and soldiers are there in order to do honor to those who may enter the "open door."

It is understood that a strong delegation of Arizonans is soon to go to Washington to work for statehood. The people of Arizona have plenty of money and time to spare and therefore will make another strong effort in that direction. This is highly commendable and timely. What will New Mexico do about its case?

History may not repeat itself, but it will be remembered that Mr. Bryan urged the ratification of the Spanish-American treaty and thereafter called it bad names in his political campaigns. He may not do the same thing in the case of the pending Panama Canal treaty, but the chances are that he will.

It may be paradoxical, but nevertheless it is a fact that under the Republican administrations since 1896 the solid south has prospered more, and is in better financial and material condition than it has been ever since the government commenced to do business. A Republican administration is a good thing for the entire country regardless of state lines and political divisions.

BLIND-FOLD.



Blindfold a woman and she loses all confidence in herself. Her step is slow, hesitating and uncertain. Her hands are raised to ward the imaginary blows which threaten her. When a sick woman seeks the means of health she is often like a woman blindfold. She has no confidence. She cannot tell what her effort will lead to. She turns now to this side and then to the other in uncertainty and doubt.

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There may be some officials in New Mexico who are drawing two salaries, but that is nothing compared with a New Hampshire state official who is drawing four. In some of the older states of the American union they have this thing of official grafting down fine.

The territorial Supreme Court is doing good work and clearing the docket rapidly. This is as it should be. Delaying cases for years is a hardship which should not be put upon litigants in this Territory. It is done in some of the states, but New Mexico, although it is a struggling Territory, can and does do better.

The Socorro Chieftain puts the matter very neatly and correctly when it says: "The Santa Fe New Mexican is evidently of the opinion that, while there may be more joy in heaven over one sinner that is saved than over the ninety and nine that went not astray, that is not a sufficient reason for at once bestowing upon a repentant Democrat the highest honors that Republicans who have borne the heat and burden of the day have to bestow. As usual, the New Mexican is just about right."

The territorial board of equalization, under the new assessment laws passed by the Thirty-fifth Legislative Assembly has it in its power by judicious and efficient inspection and action to increase the value of property returned for taxation to a just and proper degree. Every county in the Territory should be treated alike and assessment rates should be equalized properly and fairly as much as possible. In the very nature of things there must and always will be some inequalities in assessment and tax matters, but a better state of affairs can be brought about by the board if it chooses, as under the law its powers are ample.

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GEO. W. KNAEBEL,
 Office in Griffin Block. Collections and searching titles a specialty.

EDWARD L. BARTLETT,
 Lawyer, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Office in the Capitol.

EUGENE A. FISKE,
 Attorney and Counselor at Law, Santa Fe, N. M.
 Supreme and District Court Practice.

BENJAMIN M. READ,
 Attorney-at-Law, Santa Fe, N. M.
 Office Sena Block. Palace Ave.

WILLIAM MCKEAN,
 Attorney-at-Law.
 Practice in all the Courts, Taos, N. M.

W. J. McPHERSON,
 Attorney-at-Law. Practices in all the Courts in the Territory. Santa Fe, New Mexico.

WILLIAM H. H. LLEWELLYN,
 Attorney-at-Law.
 Las Cruces, New Mexico.
 District attorney for Dona Ana, Otero, Grant, Luna and Sierra Counties.
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FRANK W. CLANCY,
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 (District Attorney 2d Judicial District.)
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